

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. This is a case of irresponsible journalism. Even the President himself has admitted that Kerry's service to his country during the Viet Nam war was worthy and honorable. This covert effort on his part, to get groups that he disavows to do the dirty work of presenting as impartial what in fact is untruth dishonors him, our nation, and all the Viet Nam Vets who have served honorably.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This effort by Sinclair to influence the election and the way people will vote by presenting such an irresponsible documentary without immediately following it with an equal and opposite view is inappropriate and it should not be allowed. We should be seeing and hearing more real news and views from people in our own community who will be more responsive to the sensibilities and input from members of the community.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I Thank you for your attention to this matter which needs immediate action since it is bound to effect not only the election outcome, but also peoples respect for the political process in this country for many years to come.

Alice Sadowski